



What A Water Test Report Means

Interpretation of Bacteriological Sample

E. coli	If E. coli bacteria is present, this indicates contamination from human, animal or bird feces. There is no satisfactory method currently available for differentiating between organisms of human or animal origin. Most E. coli strains are usually harmless, but its presence indicates that other harmful bacteria, viruses, or parasites also found in fecal matter could be in your water. Water can be adequately treated with a one micron filter, chlorination, and a UV light.
Total Coliform	Total Coliform bacteria are a large group of bacteria commonly found in the environment, on plants, in soil, and in surface water. However, it is not natural for this bacterium to be found in groundwater. Generally harmless, their presence indicates that other, more harmful contaminants, could have found a way into the well. Contamination may be associated with work completed on plumbing or well; or surface water run-off entering the water supply. Water can be treated with a chlorinator or UV light.

THE WATER IS CONSIDERED UNSAFE IF EITHER TYPE OF COLIFORM BACTERIA IS PRESENT.

If the laboratory examination of the water shows **positive** for either of the above named organisms, an effort should be made to determine the cause of a positive result. Pending the removal of the source of contamination and proper protection of the water supply, the water should be boiled to render it safe for human consumption.

If the bacteriological results were positive, see the enclosed disinfection procedures.

Interpretation of Metal/Chemical Sample

Item	Recommended	Problems from excessive amounts
pH	6.5-8.5	Below pH 6.5 may cause corrosion of copper and iron pipes, lead from soldered joints in pipes, and zinc and cadmium from galvanized metals.
Turbidity	0-5 units	Turbidity is the amount of cloudiness in the water, caused by either organic or inorganic suspended particles. If your water becomes more turbid after rainfall or snow melt, this could indicate that your well is under the influence of surface water. High turbidity causes chlorinators and UV lights to be less effective.
Chloride	Less than 250 ppm	If chloride content is normally low, an increase may indicate sewage or salt contamination. High concentrations may affect the taste of the water and should not be consumed if you have a sodium restricted diet.
Nitrate as N	Less than 10.0 ppm	Nitrates and nitrites could be naturally occurring in the water, or they can enter the water supply from surface water runoff containing fertilizer or animal waste. Water with high amounts of nitrates and nitrites should not be consumed by infants less than 6 months.
Iron	Less than .3 ppm	Causes poor flavored and colored (reddish brown) water, stains plumbing fixtures and laundry, and deposits in pipes. See pH.
Manganese	Less than 0.05 ppm	Causes poor tasting coffee and tea, brown to black stains on fixtures and laundry. Water with high manganese should not be consumed by infants and children.
Arsenic	Less than 0.010 ppm	Arsenic is a heavy metal naturally occurring in the rock. High levels of arsenic can be harmful to your health when consumed for a long period of time. Treatment is required for new wells with high arsenic when issuing a Certificate of Potability.

If further advice is required, feel free to contact this office at (301)334-7760.